

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NEW ENGLAND ZOÖLOGICAL CLUB

A NOTE ON XIPHOCERCUS

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I WAS greatly interested when my friend Mr. G. K. Noble told me not long ago that the American Museum of Natural History in New York had received from a correspondent in Bogotá some specimens of what has been called *Xiphocercus heterodermus*. In 1909, when in Jamaica, I had observed and collected a number of the *Xiphocercus valenciennesi*, and had often wondered how this would compare with the Colombian species. My doubt as to the monophyletic character of the genus, was completely substantiated when Mr. Noble very kindly allowed the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy to have one of his suite of Bogotá specimens in exchange.

A careful examination at once revealed the fact that the very superficial similarity was doubtless due to these two lizards having arisen through somewhat parallel modifications from undoubtedly very distantly related *Anolis*-like stocks. The character of the head scales and their arrangement, the contour squamation on the sides of the body, the formation of the digits, and the character of the tail, are quite unlike in the two species. The tail of the Colombian form appears to be somewhat prehensile: it curves in a vertical plane, and its squamation sug-

gests that such may have been the case, for there are no whorls, no enlarged scales to retard curving or coiling. The tail of the Jamaican lizard is very strongly compressed, curves laterally, is fragile, and, as would be expected of a very fragile tail, it is sharply segmented in scalation. It is not capable of use in life, although I seem distinctly to remember its being often carried rather sharply curled, laterally, after the manner of many Anoles, notably *Anolis homolechis* of Cuba.

There is good reason, therefore, for establishing the type from the Bogotá region as a distinct genus, and I propose for it a name which suggests that it has sailed under false colors.

PHENACOSAURUS gen. nov.

Type, *Anolis heterodermus* A. Duméril.

Tympanum distinct. Body compressed, covered with enlarged, slightly imbricating scales, each surrounded by smaller granules. A feebly developed biserial dorso-nuchal crest. Head with large plate-like scales, the peripheral series enlarged and forming a slightly elevated rim. Male with a feebly developed folding dewlap. Digits widely and evenly dilated, their sides parallel, with many smooth transverse lamellae below; the distal phalanx only, slender and compressed. No femoral or preanal pores. Tail one and one-fourth times as long as head and body, very slightly compressed, and apparently prehensile. Lateral teeth tricuspid; pterygoid teeth absent. No sternal fontanelle. Abdominal ribs.

Now, therefore, since Boulenger's diagnosis of the genus *Xiphocercus* was drawn up to include these two unrelated types, it would best be revised to include the unique Jamaican species only.

XIPHOCERCUS Fitzinger

Type, *Anolis valenciennesi* Duméril & Bibron.

Tympanum distinct. Body compressed, covered with small, flat, sub-equal, plate-like, rounded or polygonal scales, usually not in contact with each other. No dorsal or nuchal crest. Head with large plate-like scales,

no peripheral scales enlarged to form a rim. Male with a feebly developed dewlap. Digits slightly dilated proximally, widely dilated at the second and third phalanges, the distal phalanx being slender and compressed. No femoral or preanal pores. Tail very strongly compressed, not prehensile. Lateral teeth tricuspid, pterygoid teeth present or absent. No sternal fontanelle. Abdominal ribs.

I am unable to find pterygoid teeth in our example of *heterodermus*, while I find that they may or may not be present in *valenciennesi*. They are present in one half-grown individual, and absent in several adults, which I have examined. This is in keeping with the findings in Dr. Boulenger's recent studies of the Lacertidae (Monograph of the Lacertidae, I, 1920), where he points out that these teeth are constantly either present or absent in some species of *Lacerta*; for instance, in *Lacerta vivipara* (*sensu lato*) he speaks of their being "nearly always absent," and in *Lacerta laevis* as being "usually present." In his Catalogue of the Lizards in the British Museum (II, 1885, p. 8), Boulenger stated in his diagnosis of the genus *Xiphocercus* that pterygoid teeth were present. Their presence or absence is probably not of great significance.